FBIS DAILY REPORT

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*Latin America*

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MILITARY SOURCE GIVES ACCOUNT OF VIOLA'S OUSTER

PY150229 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2314 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA) -- A high-ranking military source has disclosed a few details and has given an explanation to a small group of journalists about the causes which have led to the ouster of President Lt Gen, Ret, Roberto Eduardo Viola, and the steps taken to implement this decision.

The high-ranking official spokesman began by saying that, essentially, the task of the military junta is to supervise the compliance with the objectives and the development of the process of national reorganization. He added that the guidelines issued by the military junta for 1981 were aimed basically at compensating for the attrition experienced by the process during its 5 years, a compensation which had to be attained through both sectorial and overall strengthening of the process.

"I believe that everyone is aware of the fact that this attrition had various causes, one of which was the creation of a new ministry, or rather ministries, which were controlled by factional interests and which made the process less dynamic," the source indicated, adding that "the unease generated by a new executive was worsened by the feeling that government actions had become stagnant, that there were delays in the implementation of new policies, and so forth. However, all this was the responsibility of the Executive Branch."

The military sources went on to say that in addition to all this came Viola's illness which demanded his hospitalization on 9 November. However, the initial impression was that his illness could be overcome eventually "according to the medical reports which the presidential public information secretariat was releasing."

The source recalled that just when Viola was scheduled to resume his official activities in Olivos, on 16 or 17 November, his health deteriorated again and it was decided to give him "holter" tests for 2 days. As a result of the information supplied by these tests and especially the variations observed, depending on the activities carried out by the patient, it was decided to suspend his official activities and hospitalize him at the Guemes sanatorium.

The source added that in the meantime, while in charge of the Executive Branch, General Liendo implemented economic measures which led to polemics harmful to the philosophy of the process, in addition to the fact that the measures had come from other than economic circles.

He said: "All this created an unfavorable atmosphere and the armed forces arrived at the conclusion that the situation had to be resolved. For this purpose talks were held with the members of the high command and the three armed forces branches reached a decision."

He explained that "General Galtieri tried to do his best first through officers, comrades in arms and close friends, such as Generals Llamil Reston, Jose Antonio Vaquero and Santiago Luis Martella, who talked with Viola between Saturday and Monday without gaining anything from him."

The source indicated that "finally, Lieutenant General Galtieri informed Viola that he would visit him and he also told Viola why. He visited Viola three times for shorter periods of time than one could suppose."

He added: "During these visits General Galtieri tried to convince Viola to pave his own way out by resigning because of his health, a proposal which Viola flatly refused."

The source also said that on 10 December, when the military junta held a dinner for the press, the three armed forces commanders held a meeting at which they decided to put an end to the situation in view of the lack of concrete answers from Viola.

Shortly after 2200 that night, the junta summoned army Secretary General Maj Gen Alfredo Oscar Saint Jean, and ordered him to go see Viola at the Olivos residence and invite him to attend the meeting which the military junta was going to hold the next day, as a last effort.

The source revealed that Viola accepted this invitation and at 1100 the next morning he arrived at Libertador building where the military junta was meeting. In view of his refusal to resign for health reasons, his removal was decided at 1200. At this meeting Viola "did not offer any palatable solutions" and his removal was verbally conveyed to him at 1200.

This decision was conveyed to him in writing through a note of the military junta and taken to him by General Saint Jean who delivered it at 1700 at the Olivos residence.

Immediately after the decision was made, the military junta summoned Minister Liendo to apprise him of the fact that Viola had been removed, after which Liendo went to his office and met with the ministers of the Executive Branch whom he asked to resign and whom he notified, before the junta could do so, that Viola had been removed.

After doing this, Liendo returned to army headquarters to tender his resignation and request his retirement from active military duty.

Liendo's resignation left the nation without a president, a situation which was immediately remedied by the interim appointment of the highest-ranking and most senior officer of the cabinet, Vice Adm Carlos Alberto Lacoste, as Interior Minister in charge of the Executive Branch until 22 December.

The source indicated that throught these developments "General Galtieri was the one who exposed himself to attrition most because he undertook the responsibility before the military junta to delay the final decision in the hope of arriving at a more concilatory solution."

In response to questions from journalists, the official spokesman said that economist Raul Prebisch has not been summoned to army headquarters yet; that the philosophy of the process will not be changed; that it is possible that recent military assignments will be changed; and that the intention is to bring into the process civilians capable of guaranteeing its continuity.

LA NACION Editorial

PY151952 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Dec 81

[Editorial: "General Viola's Replacement"]

[Text] The problem of General Viola's replacement was solved yesterday. But this does not mean that the crisis that the country is experiencing has been overcome. It must be noted that General Viola's replacment does not merely imply a change of command but a complete reorganization -- a well thought out direction for all future actions -- of the objectives established by the armed forces government.

The storm over General Viola's illness should come as no surprise to those who have been listening to the subdued thunder over the military horizon for a long time. A few days ago we noted the unforeseen intrigues that preceded his appointment by the military junta in September of last year. The government presided over by Lieutenant General Viola experienced a critical economic period during the 5 1/2 months prior to his assumption of the executive office, meaning that there was not a smooth transfer of power between the two military administrations. Beyond the personal friendship between Videla and Viola, there was a disagreement on how to confront Argentina's economic and financial situation. If there were any doubts about the magnitude of this disagreement, Martinez de Hoz's recent statement and Sigaut's immediate reply will suffice.

But all those involved arrived at a sort of agreement -- it does not matter whether it was a tacit one or not -- in March of this year whereby they decided to avoid any statements that would result in a rupture of the economic philosophy established in 1976 by the national reorganization process.

The objective of this agreement was to reassert the principle of continuity within the armed forces government. This continuity that would allegedly transcend occasional personal ambitions,at least until those objectives aimed at restoring republican institutions were achieved, was clearly established in the political guidelines included in the documents issue in March 1976.

But the military junta of 1976 already showed signs of disagreement after the victory over subversion and terrorism. Moreover, the development of events emphasized this disagreement erasing all previous commitments. General Viola, however, was willing to ammend all unfavorable economic measures and understood that a proper political atmosphere had to be established to restore a stable democracy in Argentina. But if his economic measures did not meet expectations, his political program was too ambiguous. Moreover, the junta was more of a zealous statesman than a trustworthy partner regarding the political program.

When General Viola announced his cabinet, we noted in this newspaper column that the strong personality and capability of those persons appointed would not lead to a positive action. Unfortunately our fears have been justified, as least regarding the economic sector. And precisely, there have been many examples of this. There has been more ctiticism of the things the government has not done rather than comments on its achievements.

Everything that has been said shows that General Viola's replacement is the last issue of an apparently cohesive process. The contact of the sword has torn the wrapping that protected a significant undertaking.

From now until 22 December there will be an interim government during which the armed forces will reorganize the power structure. But we are not merely witnessing a problem within military circles. We are experiencing the old problem of collective impotence which is based on the theory that Argentina cannot be governed. It is a frustrating statement of which neither civilians or the military are exempted. Patriots who have their eyes set on the future, should not, therefore, support either side.

ARMY OFFICERS DESCRIBE STATE OF SUBVERSION

PY160036 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 18 Nov 81 pp 1,2

[Excerpts] High-ranking army officers presented a new report on the struggle against subversion and the current state of guerrilla groups, to officials and political leaders, at the Military Institutes Command in Campo de Mayo.

Maj Gen Reynaldo Bignone, head of the Military Institutes Command, explained at the beginning of the meeting the characteristics of the organization he is heading and treated the subversion issue in the country in a general manner.

Then, according to what was learned, Colonel Gonzalez Brega gave a detailed report on the most salient characteristics of the history of terrorism in Argentina, illustrating his long report with slides and diagrams showing the organizational structure of terrorism.

He referred especially to the two subversive groups which acted most in our country -- ERP [People's Revolutionary Army] and the Montoneros -- recalling their origins and later development.

The military officer explained that the Montoneros are trying to hasten the national reorganization process to prevent the fulfillment of the objectives. Referring to the position of the Montoneros toward the multiparty organization, Gonzalez Brega indicated that they aspire to turn this multiparty organization into a multisectorial organization, so that those sectors which support the Montoneros can try to gain greater leverage through the multisectorial organization.

Colonel Gonzalez Brega added that, according to what was learned, the speciality of that subversive group was terrorism with plastic explosive. He said that on the border -- without specifying with what country -- there is a "tactical command" which is charged with organizing shock groups, made up of three or five militants, one of which is reportedly responsible for the interference on a television channel a few days ago.

He confirmed that ERP was practically disbanded, although he said that outside the country there are approximately 80 militants. He said that Gorrarian Merlo is reportedly among those who are acting in Nicaragua. Regarding the number of guerrillas who continue their activities abroad, he estimated there were approximately 500. He added that many of them are included among the missing persons whose whereabouts are demanded from the government.

He also explained the ideologies of the two subversive groups.

The meeting concluded with a report by General Bignone, who stated that the armed forces have no obligation to give a list of dead and missing persons, but that the enemy should do it. According to what was learned, he added that the regular forces officially reported their casualties.

He also added that it would involve a serious mistake because then further details will be demanded on the place where the subversive element was killed, the date and by what elements.

In a later passage he stated that the intensive activity harmful to the process which is being carried out by international organizations in defense of human rights in the country has the objective of discouraging any other government in the world to act as the Argentine Government did to defeat subversion.

He said that there are three possible positions before this action: the open struggle and defeat of terrorism; the defeat of the state by subversion; and coexistence with subversion as is happening in certain European and Latin American countries.

MALVINAS ISLANDS NEGOTIATIONS WITH UK POSTPONED

PY151335 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2132 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM) -- The negotiations between the United Kingdom and Argentina which were scheduled for this week in Geneva have been postponed to a future date to be agreed upon by the parties.

This is stated by the press and broadcasting communique issued this afternoon by the San Martin Palace, in relation with a report dated 3 December, according to which negotiations on the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands would be held in Geneva this coming Friday between delegations from Argentina and the United Kingdom.

The text of the communique issued today reads as follows: The Foreign Relations and Worship Ministry informs: The negotiations between the representatives of the Argentine and UK Governments, which were scheduled for this week in Geneva, have been postponed to a future date to be agreed upon by the parties.

OFFICIALS PRAISE REPEAL OF KENNEDY AMENDMENT

Pinochet Statment

PY151755 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Government House news by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] Chilean President Augusto Pinochet (?said) this morning that the lifting of the Kennedy amendment was a just and proper decision. It must be noted that this measure which restricted the sale of U.S. arms, spare parts and ammunition to Chile [words indistinct]. The president added that this proves that Chilean foreign relations are on the right path and that the U.S. administration has done justice by repealing the Kennedy amendment.

Foreign Minister's Comment

PY151351 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The U.S. Congress has abolished the Kennedy amendment. A joint committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives has annulled the prohibition of military aid to Chile and Argentina. The committee's report is the next to last stage of legislative procedure. It is now up to the Congress to approve it.

Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames has said that the U.S. Senate's [as heard] decision is very positive because it puts an end to an unjust an discriminatory situation. The foreign minister emphasized that the decisiin clearly shows that Chile has a new image in the United States. The prohibition to sell arms to Chile and Argentina was imposed during the James Carter administration in 1978. The decision made by a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives, called a conference committee, has been labeled in Washington circles as a double victory for President Reagan.

GOVERNMENT DENIES ACCUSATIONS ON DEADLY GAS

PY152004 Paris AFP in Spanish 1524 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Santiago, 15 Dec (AFP) -- Government sources said here today that the report made in the United States about the manufacturing of a deadly gas by Chile intended for use by the armed forces is a preposterous lie.

According to U.S. press reports, Michael Vernon Townley has revealed to the FBI the manufacturing of the gas called sarin. This gas was to be used in eventual confrontation between Chile and Argentina and Peru. It was reported that sarin vaporizes when in contact with the atmosphere and upon entering the human body it paralyzes the respiratory system causing death.

A spokesman for the Defense Ministry in Santiago has said that although it is believed that the report is nothing but another of Townley's lies, a strict investigation of it will be carried out. Furthermore, the Chilean chemical engineers' union has warned that the professional mentioned by the former DINA [National Intelligence Department] agent as the developer of the deadly sarin is not among its 14,000 members.

GOVERNMENT PLEASED OVER NEW UN APPOINTMENT

PY120042 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Excerpt] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has expressed satisfaction over the appointment of Javier Perez de Cuellar, a Peruvian, as the new UN secretary general.

Fernando Zegers, director general of foreign policy of the Foreign Ministry, has noted that his is the first time in the history of the United Nations that a Latin American has been appointed UN secretary general.

FOREIGN MINISTER SATISFIED WITH OAS CONFERENCE

PY142113 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 12 Dec (AFP) -- Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames stated here today that Chile obtained positive results at the OAS conference held this month on the Caribbean island of Saint Lucia.

On returning to Santiago, Chile, the minister stated, regarding the two subjects of interest to the Chilean Government -- the Bolivian petition for an outlet to the sea and the human rights issue -- that we have achieved what we wanted.

The OAS reiterated that the Bolivian landlocked problem is a bilateral issue with our country, and rejected the proposal to turn it into a continental issue, Rojas Galdames stated.

And regarding human rights, which the Chilean Government is constantly accused of violating in international forums, a growing awareness that Chile is a normal country in this regard was noticed, the foreign minister added.

Rojas Galdames declined to comment on the recent change of presidents in Argentina, but admitted that it could have an influence on the development of neogtiations seeking to solve the Beagle Channel border conflict, which has been submitted to the mediation of Pope John Paul II.

Seeks Pope's Mediation

PY141949 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames has reaffirmed Chilean confidence in Pope John Paul II as a mediator. He said one should wait for the pope to take further steps on the southern conflict. He added that the pope has not changed his line, nor has Chile changed its position.

He noted that the holy father last Saturday urged the Governments of Chile and Argentina to find a prompt solution to the conflict. He made it clear, however, that Chile cannot change its position on the negotiations until the pope makes the first move after the Argentine reply.

Rojas Galdames also said that Chile is willing to resume diplomatic ties with Bolivia. He made it clear, however, that the initiative for this effect should come from La Paz, without conditions.

CHRISTIAN LEFT MEMBERS HELD INCOMMUNICADO

PY151247 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Six members of the proscribed Christian Left, IC, are being held incommunicado in the Santiago public jail. The activists were arrested by members of the security services. According to an order signed by (Gustavo Salazar), head of the second military court, the activists were immediately held incommunicado in the preventive detection center, former public jail.

The arrested are: (Pablo Arturo Fontania Zeikel); (Luis Eugenio Diaz Corvalan); (German Molina Valdivieso); (Sergio Patricio Aguilo Melo); (Raul Enrique Reyes Usarate); and (Ramon Rodolfo Pina Vargas).

AFP Report

PY151849 Paris AFP in Spanish 1213 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 12 Dec (AFP) -- The Chilean human rights commission has reported here that two of its leaders are being held in secret jails since their arrest by government agents.

The report was confirmed by the National Intelligence Center (CNI), whose agents arrested in this capital the commission's secretary, German Molina Valdivieso, and the director of the provincial department, Pablo Fuenzalida Zegers.

An official communique released by the CNI reports that the two persons under arrest were in contact with the proscribed Christian Left (IC). Other IC members have also been accused in the last few days of carrying out clandestine subversive activities.

The CNI also reported the arrest of lawyer Eugenio Diaz Corvalan, member of the constitutional studies dissident group. The Catholic Church has also reported the alleged arrest of economist Sergio Aguilo Melo.

A human rights spokesmen said: Our directors were taken last night from our headquarters by CNI agents who did not identify themselves and who took them to the secret jails of the Chilean Government.

It was learned that Molina and Valdivieso were arrested at the conclusion of a ceremony sponsored by the commission to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the International Human Rights Declaration which was attended by diplomats and jurists.

German Molina, the commission's secretary, delivered the main speech saying that the commission is not involved in politics but is searching for the creation of conditions of respect of human rights in Chile.

The commission released an annual report last Friday saying that 867 persons were arrested by orders of the Interior Ministry during 1981 in addition to more than 20 deaths in confrontations with military, police and security agents. The document indicated that only 10 percent of the arrested received concrete accusations and judicial process, while the others were released or cleared of charges by the courts.

Gonzalo Taborga, the commission's secretary of international affairs, said that it seems that it has become a habit for officials to make all kinds of unfounded accusations.

Taborga attributed these actions to a strategy of intimidation against dissidents and accused the government agents of violating the new constitution enforced by President Pinochet last March. During the press conference Taborga said: The defense of human rights in Chile is a risk but it is worthwile living in freedom and we are not afraid of this commitment.

GROUP CHARGES MURDER OF RESISTANCE MILITANTS

FL111440 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1234 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] A charge has been made in the Mexican capital to the effect that five militants of people's resistance of Chile [Resistencia Popular Chilena] were poisoned in the Santiago, Chile, penitentiary. The charge was made by the Association of Relatives of Political Prisoners in Chile [Association de Familiares de Presos Politicos en Chile], that has started a campaign denouncing this new form of extermination that is being applied by Pinochet's police. The association has also called for international solidarity with the Chilean people at a time that such savage actions are being carried out.

INTERIOR MINISTER WARNS AGAINST DIVISIVE ACTIONS

FY110109 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Graciela Contreras report from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpts] President Pinochet addressed a greeting today at noon to the workers of the country through the labor leaders from the 13 regions of the country who gathered in the Diego Portales building this morning. The crowd numbered 3,000 people. This was their last meeting with the president for this year.

On the occasion, the interior minister stated that the government will not permit division between the workers and the government and still less the manipulation of the labor organizations. Sergio Fernandez made a speech on aspects related to the activities of the labor unions and their leaders. He warned against the actions which third parties are constantly trying to carry out among the workers, because, he said, such actions are very useful to them in creating difficult situations not related to work itself and completely different from those activities which the workers should carry out. He stressed that the enemies of Chile are constantly on the alert to disturb normal coexistence and that the labor leaders should always be on the guard to reject any actions of this type. He pointed out that there are internal groups, financed from abroad, which are trying to divide the government and the workers and create a breach between them so that not true harmony might exist.

SECURITY FORCES SLAY TWO EXTREMISTS IN SHOOTOUT

FY120144 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Graciela Contreras report from Government House]

[Text] After 1900 tonight, the government released details of a shootout that took place earlier today at 1400 when security forces raided a house located at 6774 Rivadavia St and (Paralelo 18) in Santa Rosa in this capital.

In this respect, the Social Communications Directorate (DINACOS] reported that while following clues concerning the murder of three officers of the investigations department that occurred on 18 November, security forces were unexpectedly attacked with bursts of machinegun fire from the inside of the house. In view of this, the security forces had to use their guns to repel the attack.

DINACOS added that during the shootout, which lasted approximately 1 hour, the security forces received logistical support to overpower and capture the extremists who had attacked them. When the security forces were able to break into the house, they found two dead bodies whose papers identified them as (Maria Veronica Cienfuegos Cavieres) and (Luis Julio Bellini Castro). A third extremist was able to escape.

The DINACOS communique added that a slightly wounded security officer was being treated at a hospital. The document noted that the following was seized at the raided house: a Czechoslovak-made submachine gun, a 9 mm pistol, hand grenades and a motor vehicle.

The DINACOS communique concluded by stating that security forces are carrying out several actions designed to capture the third extremist who was able to escape.

This is a late report: DINACOS has just reported that fingerprint tests of the extremist killed this afternoon identified him as (Sergio Gabriel Flores Duran) and not as (Luis Julio Bellini Castro). (Flores Duran) had been barred from the country by decree of 13 April 1980, yet he had clandestinely returned to the country.

## EL SALVADOR

### MILITARY CLAIMS SEIZURE OF RADIO VENCEREMOS

PA152117 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Dec 81 pp 2, 72

[Text] The clandestine radio station Radio Venceremos and all the equipment, propaganda, cassetes, records, instruments and supplies were seized by the army in Joya del Volcanicillo, Meanguera municipality, Morazan Department. The equipment was taken to Osicala.

Yesterday the armed forces announced that the clandestine radio station had been operating for several months from different points of the country and also from Cosiguina in Nicaragua.

Several of the persons in charge of the clandestine radio station were captured when the station was seized. They were taken to a military garrison for further questioning.

According to military sources, the extremists were able to operate the station during those months because of the terrain in Morazan Department.

The equipment and everything else seized from the clandestine radio station has been removed by order of the Armed Forces High Command.

Meanwhile, it was officially reported that the military operation currently underway in Morazan Department is a success.

In due time, the armed forces will announce the final result of the operation. The search operation may last 10 more days due to the uneven terrain in that region.

#### FMLN Denies Destruction

PA151401 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] In a communique yesterday, the FMLN denies that Radio Venceremos had been destroyed by the Salvadoran Christian Democratic-military army. In its communique, the FMLN states: We categorically deny the report and reiterate that our station has suspended its transmissions for security reasons. Our intelligence services discovered that one of the Christian Democratic junta's objectives in its present military offensive is the destruction of Radio Venceremos and that for this mission it has assigned special forces trained by U.S. mercenaries.

Lastly, the FMLN asserts that this new lie of the government is a way of hiding the failure of its operations in eastern Morazan Department, and particularly, that of annihilating the radio station. It is also trying to minimize the successful actions executed by units of the FMLN in different areas of the nation.

### PARTS OF SAN MIGUEL, USULUTAN 'SEIZED' BY FMLN

PA151432 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Reports from San Salvador state that parts of the cities of San Miguel and Usulutan, 130 and 112 km from the Salvadoran capital, have been seized by FMLN guerrilla units.

The report states that at approximately 1630 on Sunday, rebel troops of the FMLN's southeastern front entered the southern part of the city of San Miguel, El Salvador's third most important city, and clashed fiercely with government troops stationed there.

The rebel commandos seized the radio station Estacion del Color, broadcasting proclamations, while a military convoy that came to help the besieged troops from the neighboring La Union Department was ambushed by the revolutionaries, who caused heavy casualties.

Meanwhile, Juan Ramon Medrano, the commander of the southeastern front guerrilla forces, said that the town of Usulutan had been seized simultaneously with San Miguel, after an attack on the barracks of the junta's army and the Salvadoran National Guard. The rebel even took up positions up to 50 meters away from the government troops' position. It was also reported that no less than 10 soldiers of the regime had been killed.

Meanwhile, Santa Elena, a locality 12 km from Usulutan, was also attacked by the rebels.

Upon receipt of this report, the guerrilla forces were still holding to their positions both in San Miguel and Usulutan in what is considered a major FMLN counteroffensive in El Salvador's east.

MILITARY SOURCES REPORT COMBAT CASUALTIES

PA160334 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1934 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- A total of 35 guerrillas and 5 soldiers were killed in combat during the first days of the "Hammer and Anvil" military operation in eastern Morazan Department, military sources revealed.

Spokesmen said that two guerrilla camps had been destroyed in Jocoaitique, Arambala and Perquin in the northern part of this department and that large quantities of weapons, ammunition, food and surgical and communications equipment had been captured.

Military sources said that the army's military operations have decreased following the capture of the rebel radio station but the troops are still deployed in their bases until "the region has been cleared of guerrillas."

## GUATEMALA

DEFENSE MINISTER ON ARMY CONTROL OF GUERRILLAS

PA152253 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] A contingent of guerrillas attacked a military post in Nebaj, Quiche, but was stopped by the troops, who killed two subversives. After the incident, Defense Minister Luis Rene Mendoza Palomo announced that the guerrillas are under control.

[Begin recording] The guerrillas were controlled by the security forces, but we have seen the recent incidents. As we know, the guerrillas do not show a definite front. This morning the Nebaj community was attacked for several hours. The guerrillas are always staging harassment actions to prove their presence. When we talk about the army's control, we are not talking about absolute control, but about a control that enables the people to carry out their daily activities in the best possible way, without affecting the nation's economy. [end recording]

The defense minister admitted that the guerrillas are heavily armed:

[Begin recording] Well, you have seen the large quantity of ammunition they have at the redoubts seized here in the capital. There is no doubt that they are capable of exchanging fire for a certain period of time, and since Nebaj is only a small town, heavy fire is not needed, only constant harassment, and that is what we had in Nebaj this morning. [end recording]

## NICARAGUA

### JUNTA MEMBER SERGIO RAMIREZ MERCADO INTERVIEWED

PA122234 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO Supplement in Spanish 6 Dec 81 pp 4, 5

[Interview given by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Government of National Reconstruction, to Freddy Balzan; date and place not given -- reprinted from unspecified edition of the official FSLN paper PATRIA LIBRE]

[Text] [Question] Do you believe that intervention in Nicaragua is imminent?

[Answer] It is evident that these threats are real and that no one is merely imagining them, because they were voiced by the U.S. secretary of state. I don't think they were intended only to scare us, because they know very well that we can't be scared; therefore, we must be prepared to face hard times. They said that any actions against us will be decided upon in the next few weeks and that they are going to work against our people's survival by cutting off our supply of merchandise, food and medicine. However, I must add that a naval blockade of Nicaragua would not be that simple, because of our country's geographic position and our relations with Panama and Mexico, not to mention the fact that we are close to the Caribbean. Add to this the fact that our country has two long borders and we must conclude that they are thinking of a broader plan, for an attack on Nicaragua would require operations involving all of Central America.

[Question] In other words, they could be responsible for a war involving the whole area?

[Answer] Certainly. Their policy is that of a warmongerer, for they have not paused for even a moment to consider the consequences, which include the fact that they are going to start a war in Central America if they decide to attack us.

Many countries have expressed their opposition to the U.S. Government's threats against our revolution and have expressed their solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and their determination to struggle at our side in case of an attack.

[Question] Would the revolutionary government accept this support in an emergency?

[Answer] At the moment of an attack we would not reject any support, though our fundamental defense would be our own responsibility. It is difficult to answer a hypothetical question with another hypothetical situation, but I cannot believe that a war resulting from an invasion of our territory would be contained within Nicaragua's borders. In geopolitical terms, this would be quite impossible.

We are not an island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. If an invading force comes to Nicaragua, we will defend ourselves and, if this happens, we cannot even guarantee that the war will stay within the boundaries of Central America, since that is the region with the most conflicts right now in Latin America. There is a war going on in El Salvador and another in Guatemala, which we can see is spreading rapidly. Wars in Central America have never stayed within their borders. We need only recall the situation in the 19th century, when there were social forces in conflict in Central America. Those were regional wars. That is why we wish to avoid a conflict at all costs. We do not want a generalized, widespread conflict in Central America; we do not want this to happen.

[Question] In your view, what are the reasons for the Reagan administration's threatening and aggressive policy against Nicaragua?

[Answer] All of the howling, uproar and flexing of imperialist muscle is focused on El Salvador. That was made obvious when the United States charged that Cuban soldiers were sent to Nicaragua to intervene in the Salvadoran war. However, the Cuban Government has repeatedly asked the United States to present any evidence in support of those serious accusations and it has been unable to do so.

Interestingly, in the midst of these campaigns and threats against Cuba and Nicaragua we can now see that they talk very rarely about El Salvador. They know that the situation there has been growing worse for that country's army.

I cannot recall whether it was Haig or someone else who, on some occasion, spoke of a military link in El Salvador. In my opinion, that was one of the most grave acknowledgements they could ever have made about the situation in El Salvador. They had to deny it afterward; however, because of the angry reaction expressed by Colonel Garcia [Salvadoran defense and public security minister] and by the Salvadoran Army, Reagan himself, at a press conference 2 weeks ago, had to deny that there was a military link in that country, because they know that when the regular forces acknowledge a link with certain irregular forces, the war is lost. Thus, El Salvador is the reason for all of this aggressive U.S. policy.

They don't know what to do with El Salvador. They are aware that it will not be easy to land marines in El Salvador, since that would mean landing them all over Central America. They know that they have been unable to isolate the war politically, in order to win it in accordance with their selfish interests.

The French-Mexican declaration was a blow to that isolationist effort. The U.S. attempts to reduce the conflict to an East-West issue were also unsuccessful.

Another factor is the possibility that the Christian Democratic Party and the army may split even further, since there are serious disagreements right now. That would do away with the support that the Venezuelan Government is giving to the revolutionary junta of the Government of El Salvador.

Neither can we forget that the Salvadoran Army's refusal to return the Somozist guardsmen who hijacked the Costa Rican airplane caused profound contradictions between President Duarte and the military.

The fact that important U.S. civic and labor forces, which exert great influence on public opinion and the editorial lines of some influential newspapers, oppose the elections in El Salvador under the current circumstances -- an opinion shared by some congressmen and senators -- negates the theory that the elections will solve the conflict in that country.

El Salvador Is the True Focus of Tension in Central America

[Answer continues] In addition, the U.S. conference of Catholic bishops was another hard blow to those pretentions. In that meeting, the bishops declared that a negotiated political solution must be found for El Salvador and that the United States must suspend all military aid to the Salvadoran Army.

To all of this we must add the Canadian position. That country has even offered its embassy for negotiations among the parties.

We feel that all of these factors, as well as those in the request for peace in Central America issued by the Central American Anti-imperialist Tribunal (TAC), which was signed by more than 100,000 people from all of the area's countries, reinforce the position expressed by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega at the United Nations. They reinforce the position that there must be a negotiated political solution for El Salvador and, at the same time, they discredit the electoral scheme.

No one believes in the elections because, according to spokesmen of the military government, they are going to be held, curiously enough, only in peaceful places. I don't believe that there are many peaceful places there right now.

These same spokesmen say that the polls for voters in areas of conflict will be placed in neighboring municipalities and that the voters can go there.

These statements by the Salvadoran Electoral Tribunal are conclusive evidence of the failure, already being demonstrated by the planned electoral process, which is to involve the Christian Democratic Party and four or five groups belonging to the extreme right.

These elections are to involve Colonel d'Aubuisson, who represents the fascist forces, as does General Medrano.

So, that is the true focal point of the tension in Central America: El Salvador. The reasons are the failure of the imperialist political project in that nation; the a priori failure of the announced electoral process; the lack of political alternatives to the Salvadoran Army, which is the real force in that country -- in other words, the real force is the Christian Democratic-army alliance.

To all of this we must add the Salvadoran and Guatemalan Armies' failure to date to involve Honduras in the aggressive military alliance in Central America and to revive the old Central American Defense Council schemes.

So far, Honduras has officially asserted its neutrality in the Salvadoran conflict. It is true that the incidents at La Virtud in the border area remain to be clarified. It is also true that there is some tension on the Nicaraguan border, but so far the army as such, the Armed Forces Superior Council, has reiterated its neutrality and has refused to join the Salvadoran and Guatemalan military axis.

This is yet another blow to the imperialists' policy, as they have not yet been able to produce sufficient political and military elements to launch a military attack against Nicaragua.

Thus, I believe that as long as countries like Mexico, Austria, the FRG, France and many others demonstrate solidarity with our country; and as long as they cannot solve the conflict in El Salvador, it would be very difficult for them to confront Nicaragua.

We Must Expect Anything From the Reagan Administration

[Question] Don't all of these things contradict your earlier expressed opinion that we can expect an imminent attack on Nicaragua?

[Answer] We must expect anything from the Reagan administration. I am making a rational analysis of what might or might not happen, depending upon the circumstances; but we face a government of extremists and one can never trust extremists, particularly extremists that wield so much power; that is the problem.

[Question] Known national and international columnists, as well as certain media in the United States, have agreed with the FSLN that there are sectors in the Honduran Army that are encouraged by Reagan's government and the Somozist counterrevolutionaries to maintain a climate of tension on the borders, while Nicaragua has taken many steps to guarantee peace. What answers have there been to Nicaragua's efforts?

[Answer] Commander Daniel Ortega recently sent a letter to Gen Policarpo Paz, the Honduran president, expressing a number of justified concerns. We hope that a meeting between the two countries' defense ministers will take place soon.

During the May meeting at El Guasaule, we proposed to General Paz that we create a mixed Nicaraguan-Honduran force to watch over our common border. We insisted that this would be a positive step, as we do not want tension on our border to continue. We admit that General Paz' government has made positive efforts to eliminate this tension, but the conflicts that have surfaced there are out of the central government's control. They are provoked within the army by people who are interested in the existence of a conflict, who support the Somozist guardsmen and who subscribe to efforts at destabilization.

These elements want to burden Nicaragua with permament instability on our northern border, in the hope of exhausting us by forcing the maintenance of border guard troops. They have failed to achieve this and will continue to fail, for we have a very different concept of defense from that of people trained in the old military fashion.

Nicaragua is basing its strength on popular defense. It has an inexhaustible source of human resources for defense. Therefore, we stressed our firm determination to live and reconstruct our country in peace to the Honduran Government. We told Honduras that we want peace for our peoples and for the entire Central American area.

We Will Request the IDB Loan Again

[Question] Now that we are talking about the country's reconstruction, we would like to know your opinion about the $33-million loan requested from the IDB and the U.S. pressures to prevent its approval. What is the revolutionary government's attitude?

[Answer] The U.S. Government exerted pressure so that we would not be granted this loan. However, we are going to request the loan from the IDB again, because we have the support of all countries that will be involved in the vote on that loan, and they are a significant number. According to the United States, these countries are going to vote against Nicaragua, but they have in fact publicly announced their support for us -- Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador are examples.

I believe that this will be a political test, because voting against the loan at the IDB would amount to more than an aggressive attitude. Nicaragua is a member of that bank and we have the legitimate right to receive its financial support; thus, a maneuver to block us would clearly indicate its true interests.

The Confrontation Is Not Between the United States and the FSLN but With Nicaragua

[Question] How would you describe the present domestic situation in Nicaragua?

[Answer] In discussing the country's situation, we must examine everything from the viewpoint of the confrontation of Nicaragua, as a country and an independent nation, with imperialism. We are not talking about a confrontation between the FSLN and the United States; we are discussing the confrontation of a country, whose survival is currently at stake. This situation never occurred before, because Nicaragua was a U.S. satellite. A confrontation now exists, but of a nation, not of a political group. We want to have the best possible relations with the United States, but there are apparently sectors in the current U.S. administration that are politically very backward and that have medieval ideas. It is these sectors that are attacking and threatening us. This means that we are now opposing the aggressive attitude of that government and are defending our absolute right to the sovereignty of our fatherland, and this is a decision made by all of Nicaragua's people.

[Question] What are the aspirations of the revolutionary leadership?

[Answer] At this time of confrontation, we hope that the nation will remain united. When we speak of the nation we do not exclude any social or political group, even if they oppose the revolutionary process.

We are talking in Nicaraguan terms. The right to be Nicaraguan is granted by birth, but in these difficult times this right must be won anew every day. For this reason, we urge all Nicaraguans to remain united, given the real possibility of an attack and a confrontation with imperialism.

We Have Found Rightist Groups With a Patriotic Attitude

[Question] What has been the result of this appeal?

[Answer] If we assess the responses, the results are positive. We have even found rightist groups that take the patriotic position of opposing the threats of aggression and of intervention and other excesses by Mr Haig. We trust that this spirit of unity will be consolidated, not only in words but in deeds.

[Question] What might be the starting point for these groups to demonstrate, in practical terms, their position, which is at times openly inimical to the revolutionary government?

[Answer] The present starting point must be the political parties' law, which is an FSLN initiative and which demonstrates its determination to institutionalize political pluralism here, to institutionalize the FSLN's recognition of the rights of other groups that legally exist in the country. This proposed law has not been finalized and can be perfected or improved. For this reason, it has been submitted to the State Council. Political parties that would like to introduce their ideas into the bill must go to the State Council to discuss it, as has been done by the Conservative Party, the Constitutionalist Liberal Movement and the Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions; or as has been done so far by all political and mass organizations, in a responsible and patriotic manner, ever since the State Council has established.

In Nicaragua Prison Is No Longer the Privilege of the Poor

[Question] In Panama, Commander Tomas Borge recently summarized in a single phrase the true situation of the leaders of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP, when he said that they are not in jail because they are members of that organization but because they violated the country's law, particularly the economic emergency law. What is your opinion of the recent statements made by COSEP in which it repudiates Haig's threats and comments on the political parties law?

[Answer] COSEP has made two positive statements, one on Haig's statements and the other made by Mr Burgos, in which he said that he considers the draft political parties law to be "positive." We feel that these opinions are helpful, because IN NO WAY DO WE ASPIRE TO MAKE COSEP AN APPENDAGE OF THE FSLN [preceding passage in upper case published in boldface] or to have it identify completely with our ideological positions. It represents interests that differ from ours. It represents the interests of the big businessmen. However, the important thing, over and above the points of divergence, are the points of convergence and those points of possible convergence do exist: defense of sovereignty, defense of territorial integrity, the creation of a climate of national unity, the institutionalization of ideological pluralism and so forth. Moreover, it is obvious that we are in agreement in all of these areas.

[Question] We have had the opportunity to read some foreign publications and there is really an incredible amount of lies, manipulation, misinformation and ignorance, not to call it something else, in those countries regarding the Nicaraguan situation. What is your opinion on this subject?

[Answer] When we were fighting the dictatorship we used all kinds of resources to defeat it. We were not interested in improving Somozism, in making it more benign or institutionalizing it, but rather in eliminating the system and replacing it with a new system. There are people and groups that want to end the revolution and we know who they are.

However, when we come across someone with a constructive, critical and positive attitude, someone who wants to improve the process, to coexist with it and contribute to it, we accept such a position, even if it does not coincide with ours. This does not mean that we accept sniping or destructive positions, because they imply the destruction of the process, and we are going to defend this process with tooth and nail if necessary. In this regard we will not equivocate or hide the fact that our main interest is the conservation and consolidation of power, power to be used for national transformation, for a structural change that will bring about the overall transformation of the country and that serves as a moral principle of justice.

We are not talking about consolidating the country to enrich ourselves personally, to open bank accounts in Miami or to purchase large mansions and estates for profits. Ours is a totally different criterion.

For this reason, the transnational news services controlled by imperialism join in the game of lies, slander, manipulation and old cliches in order to create the proper atmosphere to justify an act of aggression against Nicaragua. The imperialists want us to lose friends, because they know that the more friends we lose, the earier an attack will be. That is why they seek to isolate us, but all of their campaigns are doomed to the most crushing failure.

[Question] When will imperialism think that its fruit in Nicaragua is ripe?

[Answer] When, according to its perverse, Machiavellian calculations, it has achieved enmity between us and France, the FRG, Panama, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela and many other countries; when it has made the OAS put us into quarantine. That would be the right time for imperialism and that is why the imperialists launch daily campaigns of the most irritating lies and distortions, in an attempt to confuse our friends in the international arena. They will not be successful, because all of the world's peoples are much more aware than they were 50 years ago. On the same day that Commander Humberto Ortega was meeting in the USSR with that country's defense minister, Commander Jaime Wheelock met with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister of the FRG; Commander Tomas Borge attended a meeting of the Permament Conference of Latin American Political Parties, COPPPAL; Foreign Minister d'Escoto met in Brazil with Ramiro Saraiva Guerrero, his Brazilian counterpart, and we did the same with President Rodrigo Carazo of Costa Rica and with Luis Alberto Monge, the favorite presidential candidate in Costa Rica.

This is what gives us a varied political framework, a political framework of broad support for the revolution, which is exactly what they are trying to destroy with their campaigns of lies and falsification.

Relations With the Church Are Not Just Good... They Are Excellent!

[Question] Another of the banners that they are trying to manipulate both inside and outside the country, being aware of the Nicaraguan people's great religious faith, is that of an alleged confrontation between the Catholic Church and the Sandinist people's revolution. What are those relations really like?

[Answer] I would say that the present relations between the church and the revolutionary government are not just good, they are excellent. Last week we had a very cordial 2-3-hour meeting with Monsignor Vega, Monsignor Barni and Monsignor Lopez Ardon, during which we discussed with complete frankness the national situation and the role of the church.

There are obviously conflicts within the Catholic Church and we are not going to act as judges in this regard. These conflicts provoke some tension with some bishops. However, we hereby state, as we have always clearly stated, that these are matters that concern the Catholic Church and that the Sandinist revolution will never interfere or incite problems.

There is a clear political determination here, not only to preserve the Catholic Church, but to give it every freedom to function and to maintain relations with that church and with all other Christian churches of any denomination that exist in the country.

The Right Does Not Have a Leader; That Is Why They Are Trying To Obtain One From the Church

[Question] Why is reaction trying to prove that there is a conflict between the church and the state?

[Answer] Because the Nicaraguan people are very sensitive about their religion. There is no doubt that this. However, we respect the people's religious feeling, because it is a part of our nation. It represents the Nicaraguan nationality; therefore, the revolution is never going to commit an act that will go down in history as a selfish effort to destroy the people's religious faith -- this simply makes no sense. The revolution has no ideological reason for attacking the people's religious beliefs. But there are people in Nicaragua who are seeking a political leader in the church and among the bishops to throw against the revolution. They are members of the right who have no leader, because it is not that easy to find a leader who is popular. They realize that they cannot present a leader to the people who is a landowner or a big industrialist, given the social change that is taking place. In the United States they could offer such a leader, because for a candidate to be a millionaire is a part of political charisma there. It is not that way here; the opposite is true.

The political right is determined to present the bishops not as pastors, nor as leaders of a parish, but as political leaders, as spearheads for a confrontation with the revolutionary process. It is up to the bishops' common sense and intelligence to avoid this confrontation and to remain within the proper realm of the church.

This Is a Plot Behind the Threats Against Monsignor Obando

[Question] While we're on this subject, what other information can you give us about the criminal attempt planned by former Somozist officers to assassinate Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo? It seems, in this serious case, that there is no longer any interest in carrying it out, but in preventing it instead; don't you think so?

[Answer] Yes, we have reliable reports from intelligence indicating that the most notorious assassins, the former colonels of the now extinct Somozist national guard, who were also members of the late dictator's most sinister security organization -- the Anti-Communist Service (SAC) -- met in the home of Wenceslao Mayorga in San Francisco, California to plan the assassination of Monsignor Obando. This criminal commando operation was to be carried out by former Captain Cisne, who was to take his men to Nicaragua, using Guatemalan passports, to carry out their sinister plans.

The heinous plan was organized by former Colonels Alfredo Juarez Somarriba, Wenceslao Mayorga and Francisco Lola Manzano and former Maj Guillermo Rodriguez Chavez.

This group of assassins planned the crime in order to blame it on the FSLN or the revolutionary government. They were trying to commit the same horrible crime that was committed against Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, as if history could be repeated, and that was crazy, because conditions are completely different. We wish to protect the lives of not only the bishops but of all of the opposition leaders. Commander Lenin Cerna, chief of the State Security Department, DGSE, has given complete information to Monsignor Obando, whom we have offered all possible protection.

The Nicaraguan people know that we are not assassins and that we are not capable of committing crimes of such magnitude. On the contrary, even our enemies know that we can be generous and that it was the FSLN, during the most difficult moments after the victory of the revolution, that gave protection to thousands of guards, who are now in prison. In other words, we do not use their methods.

So, if Somozism succeeds at some point in any of its plans, like the one it just planned in the United States -- and we hope it does not -- the people are aware that the FSLN does not use those methods.

The fate and life of Monsignor Obando is of great concern to us, not only because we do not want anything to happen to him but because we know that there is a plot behind all of this. It worries us that the newspaper LA PRENSA minimized this part of it the day it was released to the public by Commander Cerna.

[Question] However, the reactionary sectors have distorted this serious plot and have tried to link it to the incident involving Monsignor Obando's car, which was stoned by unidentified persons, and the incident involving Monsignor Vega in Chontales. In your opinion, what are these sectors trying to prove?

[Answer] These counterrevolutionary campaigns have more impact abroad than domestically. This is because our people are very wise. The stoning of Monsignor Obando's car was presented as an action by what the reactionary sectors termed mobs, which are the people, but it was proven that this was absolutely false and that the act was carried out by unidentified persons; and even Monsignor Vega believed that what happened in La Libertad, Chontales, was strictly a local incident.

But, as I was saying before, our people are very sharp. They do not fall into these traps or believe these lies, because they already know the signs of true liberation. Just as in the past, when they rejected the electoral frauds of Somozism, they realize that armed struggle was the only way to obtain their liberation; and now that they have it, they are prepared to defend the revolution to the end.

Therefore, these campaigns of lies have no influence on our poor and humble people, who are still suffering the effects and difficulties of a hard economic situation, because they know where their true class interests lie.

The State of Economic Emergency Has Achieved All of Its Objectives

[Question] Regarding what you just said, could you tell us what the first results of the state of economic and social emergency implemented by the revolutionary government have been?

[Answer] I would say that the state of economic and social emergency has achieved the objectives and goals we established for its initial phase: better conditions of labor discipline; rescue of our productivity from the disorder into which it had fallen; and the climate of social peace we now enjoy, which is very different from the situation that exists in other countries of the area and which can only be obtained with the kind of moral support that the people are giving to the FSLN and to the revolutionary government.

[Question] Do you have any figures on hand?

[Answer] I think that the necessary proof is that we no longer have strikes or occupations of plantations. The harvest was conducted peacefully. We expect to increase sugar and coffee production this year by 5 percent. We expect a similar increase in cotton production.

Unfortunately, all of this is not going to increase our foreign income, due to the drop in the prices of our main sources of income at the international level. However, we are going to increase our productivity through the organization and pace of work of the sugarcane harvest.

[Question] The last question, Doctor Ramirez. In view of the serious situation in Central America, what in your opinion, are the factors that permit us to say that Nicaragua today is one of the more politically and economically stable countries in the area?

[Answer] In effect, Nicaragua has greater stability than any other country in the area, including Costa Rica. This becuase we have fewer problems in supplies than our sister nation. Let's not discuss stability in Guatemala and El Salvador, for this would be out of order. Nor should we mention the teachers' and peasant's strikes in Honduras.

Nicaragua is the country with the greatest stability in the area because we have a revolution whose basic strength lies in the people...in the popular masses which the reactionary sector contemptuously calls mobs. But these mobs, whose vanguard is the FSLN, are the ones that give us the advantage we enjoy over other countries.

It is true that we have difficulties, because the revolution has never lied, and everyone knows this, but the difficulties we are facing are temporary. We are not the ones with difficulties; other countries have them, including the most powerful of the developed capitalist countries.

We Are All Tightening Our Belts

Although we have difficulties, we are solving them for the benefit of our people. Social conflict begins when crises are solved in favor of the big capitalists, who want to hold on to privileges they enjoyed in the past -- that is when you have tensions.

When we talk about tightening our belts, the people know that we are doing the same, that no privileges are being granted to anyone. The moral strength and authority of the revolution lies exactly in this fact and in the historical trust that our people have in the Sandinist project.

PSOE'S GONZALEZ ON VISIT, SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

PA151840 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Felipe Gonzalez, Spanish socialist leader, said here today that an elections farce can only give a hollow solution to the Salvadoran political problem.

The secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, PSOE, arrived in this capital to hold meetings with Sandinist leaders in compliance with an assignment given to him by the Socialist International.

Gonzalez was received at Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport by Julio Lopez, in charge of the international relations office of the FSLN, and by (Eduardo de Quezada), adviser to the Spanish Embassy in Nicaragua.

The PSOE secretary general, who is also president of the International Committee for the Defense of the Nicaraguan Revolution, said on his arrival that his trip will serve in the preparaton of a report to be presented at a meeting of the Socialist International to be held in Venezuela in February. The problems of the Central American and Caribbean region will be discussed at this meeting. The Spanish leader said that the meeting will also deal with our concern over the increase of tensions at the regional level.

Gonzalez recalled that last year the Socialist International formed the International Committee for the Defense of the Sandinist Revolution and for this reason, he said, our presence in Nicaragua has a special significnace.

When asked about the resolution on the Salvadoran problem secured during the 11th OAS meeting in Saint Lucia, Gonzalez said: We don't agree with it.

Let's hear what the Spanish socialist leader said on his arrival in our country:

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] Basically, my mission is to obtain as much information as possible to prepare a report for the Socialist International, which will meet very soon, in February, in Caracas. Of course, our presence in Managua has a special meaning because during the congress which the Socialist International held in Madrid last year, we created a committee for the defense of the Nicaraguan revolution. For this reason, our presence in Nicaragua has a special meaning. But basically, the purpose of the trip is to gather information to be able to judge the regional situation.

[Question] What do you think of the resolution approved by the OAS in Saint Lucia regarding the Salvadoran conflict?

[Answer] It is evident that we don't agree with that line of action. [This resolution] has been the result of the effect of propaganda and this effect could be something to take into account. I think that objectively speaking, regardless of one's attitude, we could say that those who want elections in El Salvador which cannot be guaranteed or be trusted have achieved, at least, a quantitative diplomatic victory.

I think no one should ignore the capacity of others. At this moment, the world has been presented with some sort of offer that could have an impact on those who are not well informed about the situation in El Salvador. On the surface, this offer of elections in which all the people can participate and choose whomever they please and so forth looks good. However, those of us who know a little more about the problem realize that this is not true and that this is a trap. It is not that we don't believe in elections, which is the system we believe the people should use freely to decide on their own future, but there can be no elections under the present situation in El Salvador. There can be no trustworthy elections. It will be an elections farce and, therefore, it will be a hollow solution.

We insist, from the point of view of the Socialist International and from my own point of view -- so as not to commit the entire Socialist International -- that it is necessary to look for a political solution, for a solution that will put an end to bloodshed in El Salvador. This political solution must be one that will include important changes and that will have a progressive and democratic spirit.

We don't think there is any other way out and all efforts should be aimed at propitiating this way out -- this political solution.

[Question] What did you discuss in Panama with the leaders with whom you met there?

[Answer] Well, I have met with many leaders, including [Panamanian] President Aristides Royo; Venezuelan leader Carlos Andres Perez, with whom I arrived in Panama; and with Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Therefore, I am making a big tour that I hope to end, and I have no confirmation on this yet, with a visit to Mexico to talk with the Mexican president -- after, of course, my visit to Managua.

The subject of these meetings has been as I have already mentioned. There is serious concern, not only from the Europeans, as a result of growing tension in the Caribbean and Central American region. There is serious concern because of the world situation.

There is a new problem, the Polish problem. This further increases the feeling of insecurity. This is why we want to gather information and to obtain the opinion of persons who are our friends and who have worked with us for years. This what we are trying to do.

I think that the persons I have listened to, Aristides Royo, Fidel Castro, Carlos Andres Perez and Mexican President Lopez Portillo -- I am not going to mention Managua because we are in Managua right now -- are representative enough. I have also talked with [Jose Francisco] Pena Gomez, [secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party]. I think that these meetings with these representative persons is enough to begin an objective analysis to try to find a political and functional answer -- not only declarations -- for the region. [end recording]

Meets Leaders, Leaves

PA151542 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0320 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Managua, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Felipe Gonzalez, secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE], returned to Panama today after holding a long meeting with the FSLN's political commission.

Gonzalez, who is president of the committee for the defense of the Sandinist revolution created by the Socialist International in 1980, met all afternoon today with Commanders Bayardo Arce, Jaime Wheelock and Humberto Ortega.

The socialist leader is making an extended tour in order to prepare a report on tensions in Central America and the Caribbean for submission to a meeting to be held by the Socialist International in Caracas in February.

Gonzalez told newsmen that he visited Nicaragua to clear up some points and to get all the data he needs to act "rigorously" as president of the Committee for the Defense of the Nicaraguan Revolution.

He made it clear that he is doing this work within a framework of respect for decisions adopted in Nicaragua.

"This is not a question of doing anything on our own," he said.

He said that all forces hoping for social justice, progress and freedom have a great many hopes for the Sandinist revolution.

"I have told the Sandinist companeros in private and now state publicly that the victory of this revolution is a sort of common heritage of many people," said Gonzalez, who is traveling with PSOE Deputy Javier Solana.

It was reported that a decision will be made in Panama about making a trip to Mexico to meet with Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo and other leaders who may in the near future become prominent figures.

UDN CONDEMNS SOVIET INFLUENCE IN COUNTRY

PA151520 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 9 Dec 81 p 6A

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Union (UDN) yesterday condemned the USSR's official declaration supporting Nicaragua in case of an invasion.

Fernando Chamorro, UDN coordinator general, said, "The UDN is convinced that every Nicaraguan, for the love of the fatherland, condemns the USSR declaration supporting Nicaragua. It is not a case of solidarity with Nicaragua, but of support for the FSLN so that domestically it can consolidate itself as a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship, and internationally act as a puppet of the Moscow-Havana axis bringing chaos to the American continent.

According to Chamorro, the USSR, is defending its strategic interests with this declaration, using Nicaragua as a pawn in the peace talks in Geneva.

He said that the Russians are benefitting from military bases in airports along Nicaragua's Atlantic coast, as well as by having a market for their exports, as confirmed in the agreements signed between Nicaragua-Moscow and CEMA.

He also said that the UDN condemns the FSLN before the American community "for its traitorous attitude, unprecedented in the history of Latin American dictatorships which they so strongly attack."

He said, "the FSLN has finally managed to turn the legitimate Nicaraguan national liberation movement into a stage of Soviet neocolonialism."

He also said that the FSLN "has jeopardized continental security under conditions which we can term harmful and traitorous to the Nicaraguan people, and to all those who generously helped in the defeat of the Somoza dictatorship."

REBELS CLAIM 11 SANDINIST CASUALTIES IN CLASH

PA150428 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] A clash between the (Elias Rugama) column of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua [FARN] and a Sandinist patrol in El (Noca) district in San Juan River Department resulted in 11 casualties to the Sandinist Army, a Nicaraguan Democratic Union communique said.

According to the war communique, the revolutionary column led by Commander (Oscar), FARN military chief in the southern zone, reported that two of the Sandinist dead were identified as (Antonio Garcia) and (Pedro Sevilla Pineda). Meanwhile, the Sandinist Front reported that five members of the patrol are missing or absent without leave.

## HAVANA SEES NEW U.S. THREATS IN ENDERS REPORT

FL151505 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1420 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The Government of the United States is preparing a new maneuver against Cuba, according to what has been learned from the statements that the acting assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, Thomas Enders, made to the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee. The high government official stated in his report to the Senate committee that Cuba has renewed its campaign of violence in Latin America and that it is using Nicaragua as a platform for its penetration of Central America.

In a 37-page report, acting Secretary Enders added that Cuba's presence in Nicaragua is not only a threat against El Salvador but also against Honduras. Therefore, he admitted that the United States is preparing security measures, as he called it, for Central America and the Caribbean.

These threatening and false statements of Mr Enders coincide with Secretary of State Alexander Haig's recent opinion in which he rejects the thesis that the United States should not take military action anywhere.

And at the same time, a report that accuses Cuba again of being the sole source subversion in the area is circulating in more than 70 U.S. embassies throughout the world.

### Intervention Threat Cited

PM141023 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 6 Dec 81 pp 54-59

[Gabriele Invernzzi dispatch]

[Excerpt] Havana -- The current minor economic boom here has been aided by several factors. One is that since 74 percent of its trade is with socialist countries, the Cuban economy -- which is still supported on a massive scale by Soviet aid -- is protected from inflation imported from the West. Another is that the economic reforms launched last year are beginning to make their effects felt. Economic calculations (that is, capitalist profits) have been introduced in factories, one-fourth of a worker's income now depends on his productivity, and the "free" markets in which peasnats sell their excess produce directly are fully operational, which has brought about a leap forward in agriculture and has improved the peasants' lot.

However, this situation does not seem destined to last long. Sugar prices collapsed last year and the United States is opposing any increase. Moreover, it is exerting heavy pressure on all international companies in which U.S. capital is involved not to trade with Cuba. Also, with regard to the ideological offensive, we are about to witness the entry into operation of Radio Jose Marti, broadcasting from Florida, which will "tell the truth" to the Cubans. This is reminiscent of the cold war; even the Washington POST has criticized the initiative, if for no other reason than the bad taste of having named it for the hero of Cuban independence, an antiSpaniard, but also an anti-American.

Not to mention the famous "new options" being examined by the State Department for intervention against Cuba, in the false belief that this will extinguish the revolt in El Salvador. But what kind of intervention? A military attack? A naval blockade? An even tighter economic blockade? "They will do something; that much is certain." This was the answer given by a very authoritative Cuban Government and party spokesman, who spoke off the record, however, as required by this delicate situation in which diplomatic games perhaps still count.

"Specifically," he said, "we believe that the United States is planning a military action on a limited scale against us -- that is, one that would not imply a direct confrontation with the Soviet Union. Because it believes -- and this is where it is mistaken -- that it still has some scope for maneuver that will enable it to hit us without bringing about a clash with the Soviet Union."

[Question] In what form?

[Answer] Let us say, with a naval blockade to prevent weapons from reaching and leaving Cuba. But even this minimum hypothesis is absurd. Everyone wonders whether or not Cuba would submit to a blockade. The answer is no; we would react. And the same principle applies in the event of the United States opting for a blockade against Nicaragua. Does anybody believe that any ship of ours headed for Nicaragua would allow itself to be stopped by the U.S. navy? No, the answer is no. So what would the Americans do? Sink our ship? Very well, we will sink two of theirs. Even in the event of a bilateral conflict between the United States and us, it is possible to forecast the start but not the finish.

[Question] Unless everything finishes there, between you and them, with a Soviet guarantee not to allow itself to become involved in Cuba's defense...

[Answer] No, that is not admissible for the Soviets. For them, Cuba's defeat would be tantamount to the end of socialism.

[Question] There is a third hypothesis, however; a military intervention in El Salvador, either by the Americans themselves or by some indulgent Latin American country...

[Answer] Eliminating the guerrilla forces in El Salvador means massacring half-a-million people. Does anybody feel like doing that? How would other countries on the continent react? What about Europe? Internationalizing the Salvadoran conflict means lighting the fuse of a much more extensive conflict.

[Question] In other words, none of Washington's famous "options" seems feasible...

[Answer] None, except that of seeking a political solution in El Salvador. France and Mexico have issued a precise proposal in this direction. We support it entirely. Now it is up to you to tip the scales. You Europeans. It is up to you.

## CIA Actions Decried

PA150300 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] Sabotage, assassination attempts and ideological subversion are but a few of the weapons that the sinister U.S. Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] has used in its futile war against the Cuban revolution. Having been accustomed for decades to imposing their will on Latin America, the imperialists cannot yet resign themselves to the existence of a truly independent nation, which is building socialism in accordance with the sovereign will of its people, only 90 miles from their coast, particularly a nation whose example lends encouragement and vigor to the patriotic forces on the rest of the continent.

The presumed geniuses of Langley have launched all kinds of aggressive campaigns against Cuba, which have only resulted in the strengthening of the Cuban people's awareness and of their unity around their revolutionary principles. The enemy will never learn the historic lesson that a country determined to shape the future cannot be intimidated, but, on the contrary, grows in facing each enemy attack.

For more than 2 decades, the U.S. CIA has tried to use its entire macabre arsenal in Cuba. In the early years it financed counterrevolutionary groups charged with burning sugar plantations, destroying industries, killing revolutionary combatants and staging acts of vandalism, especially in the mountainous region of Escambray.

The mercenary invasion of the Bay of Pigs -- the largest military operation ever organized by the U.S. intelligence services -- concluded, as did the entire previous program of aggression, in an overwhelming defeat. The CIA has also promoted military and economic espionage and has been a basic factor in executing the economic blockade imposed on Cuba by U.S. imperialism.

A separate chapter entirely, whose criminal character causes particular indignation, has been the repeated attempts to assassinate the foremost Cuban leader, Fidel Castro. The refined methods used have ranged from chemical preparations to poison food and personal effects to negotiations with the mafia to arrange attacks. Last, blinded by its impotence, the CIA has resorted to bacteriological warfare, a criminal manifestation of hysteria that has caused not only the destruction of plantations and the sacrifice of a large number of cattle, but the death of more than 100 Cubans, including some 80 children who have been affected by the intentionally produced epidemics.

The CIA elite, spurred on by the current occupants of the White House, continue their machinations against the hemisphere's first state of workers and peasants by implementing propaganda campaigns intended to charge Cuba with responsibility for fostering the revolutionary process that is growing in Central America and the Caribbean. Ignorant of history, the CIA hierarchs seek to disregard the peoples' hunger and desperation, which are the real causes of the continental revolution, and reiterate their lies about Cuban interventionism as a pretext for their continuous interference in the region's domestic affairs.

However, as until now, the Cuban revolution will emerge triumphant from any future situation and will know how to defeat the plots concocted by the CIA chiefs and the White House psychopaths. More than 20 years of confrontation have forged in the Cuban people a combat experience and a relentless fighting spirit, invincible weapons in this historic combat against the worst enemies of humanity.

OAS SUPPORT FOR SALVADORAN ELECTIONS CRITICIZED

PA150416 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 14 Dec 81

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] With its support for Panama in its struggle for sovereignty over all of its territory, its support for Belize's independence and, above all, its opposition to the aggressive U.S. plans to halt the revolutoinary victory in Nicaragua, it would seem that the OAS had rejected its shameful past and had stopped being, as it was once called, the U.S. colonial ministry.

However, in its 11th general assembly -- recently held in Castries, St Lucia -- the OAS again acted as an accomplice to the North American imperialist maneuvers, as it earlier did in the overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz' progressive government [of Guatemala, 1953], the repeated attacks against revolutionary Cuba and the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic. These are only the more flagrant examples of the lengthy liaison between Washington and the discredited regional organization.

With firm rejection expressed by Mexico, Nicaragua and Grenada, the OAS approved a resolution promoted by the United States that expressed support for the electoral farce scheduled for March by the Salvadoran genocidal military-Christian Democratic regime.

These elections, as everyone knows, will be neither free nor democratic, because they will occur in a country in the midst of a civil war and in which a state of siege prevails. This is also a country in which the most blatant government-sponsored terrorism exists.

In the OAS-approved document, which condemns all foreign intervention in Salvadoran affairs, there is not a single word against the open and multifaceted U.S. intervention, which grows daily in an effort to keep a regime that is responsible for over 30,000 murders in power.

This resolution, Mexican ambassador to the OAS Rafael de la Colina said, could encourage regimes that would like to eliminate all of their enemies at a single blow with methods already known to all of us.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto also protested, saying that the document serves only to strengthen the position of those who do not want to cooperate in the creation of a climate that would guarantee truly free and democratic elections in El Salvador.

During the OAS 11th General Assembly, some representatives of democratic governments in the region came out against all military interference in El Salvador and for noninterference in that country. But in expressing their support for the Washington-promoted resolution, they not only participated in the U.S. imperialist maneuvers; they also interfered in Salvadoran domestic affairs by favoring only one of the sectors committed in the struggle, a sector that is one of the bloodiest regimes in Latin American history.

This is so true, in fact, that U.S. State Department spokesmen, after expressing their great pleasure at what happened in Castries, said that the resolution opens the way for Washington to call for joint action in defense of the Salvadoran regime.

The document approved by the OAS also ignores the clamor in the international community demanding negotiations among all parties involved in the Salvadoran conflict so that, in a climate that is free of intimidation and terror, they can reach a political solution leading to the establishment of a democratically elected government.

This was stated some days ago by the UN General Assembly, as well as by the 68th IPU conference, Socialist International, the meeting of intellectuals for the sovereignty of the peoples of our America, the U.S. Catholic Church, the permanent conference of Latin America political parties and by all of the world's progressive and democratic forces, generally.

However, the OAS turned its back on that international demand and added to its own shameful history the decision to support the Salvadoran genocidal regime in its proposed electoral farce, which, far from solving the problems of this Central American country, will intensify the conflict and create the conditions sought by Washington to justify a direct military intervention; an intervention that, if it takes place, will be resisted by the patriotic Salvadoran forces to the last of its heroic fighters.

Further Criticism

FL151333 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Commentary by Bienvenido Rojas]

[Text] The U.S. Government, through the discredited OAS, has decided that elections should be held in El Salvador, but it has completely forgotten the desires of that heroic people, who with courageous attacks and sacrifices are fighting for their liberation. This document which once again confirms that the OAS is an instrument of Washington's policies, was approved with Mexico, Nicaragua and Grenada voting against it. Panama, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and St Lucia did not vote.

At the present time, there is absolutely no type of favorable atmosphere in El Salvador for carrying out elections. This is a truth that is acknowledged by all the nations of this region, and it is also a truth that is known by those who play with the destiny of men without scruples.

Yankee imperialism and the Salvadoran oligarchs want to achieve a legitmacy that the people question with weapons in their hands. With the holding of elections they want to resolve the contradictions and conflicts that exist between themselves and create a basis for the sharing of power.

By just observing those who are interested in these elections, we are fully aware of the intentions of this new farce. The list is headed by the National Coalition Party, followed by Salvadoran Popular Party, the National Republican Alliance, Popular Orientation and, of course, the Christian Democrats. These parties, which are completely corrupted, are linked to the large capital resources and to the fascist military, and they belong to the high-level capitalistic bureaucracy. Their leaders are directly linked with the death squads, the ORDEN paramilitary groups and the CIA.

The massacre of peasants in the villages of (Las Tres Calles), (La China Mequita) and (La Cayetana), which occurred in 1974 and 1975, are still fresh in the minds of Salvadorans. Also to be taken into account are the massacres of university students that occured on 30 June 1975 and the 28 February 1977 in Libertad Plaza. These crimes were committed with the approval of those who today support Duarte's shady deal.

While the right conditions for holding truly free elections do not exist, the one and legitimate popular alternative can only be developed and implemented through combat, through the great political and military advances of the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front.

Meanwhile, the electoral project of Duarte, the junta's figurehead, is slowly becoming discredited. The electoral promise means more repression and death for the Salvadoran people. The Salvadoran revolutionary organizations have repeatedly reiterated their willingness to negotiate a political outlet for the conflict with the regime as a prior step to an electoral process. This position was supported in August by the Governments of France and Mexico in a joint document that gave representations to the Salvadoran combatants and which was later given approval by many nations.

Nevertheless, the farce that has been arranged by imperialism and its minions in El Salvador does not acknowledge the men and women who are writing with blood one of the most wonderful pages in the history of Farabundo Marti's homeland. Without the participation of these forces, there is no possibility of a settlement in that Central American country. The people have already risen as one and their advance will not end until they have conquered their legitimate and definitive independence.

## CYPRIOTS' AKEL DELEGATION ENDS VISIT, DEPARTS

FL151734 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The AKEL [Restorative Party of the Working People] delegation that has been visiting Cuba for the past few days at the invitation of the party's Central Committee has departed Cuba to return to its country. Dhonis Khristofinis, alternate member of the Politburo and head of the delegation, and Khristoforos Tzionis, member of the AKEL's Central Committee, were seen off by Jesus Montane, alternate member of the party's Politburo and a member of the Secretariat, and officials from the general department of foreign relations of the Central Committee.

RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART MEETS AUSTRIA'S KRIESKY

FL151542 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1507 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Austrian Chancellor Receives Cuban Minister. Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has received the Cuban minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, Hector Rodriguez Llompart. Matters pertaining to bilateral interests and the world situation were discussed during the meeting. Kreisky asserted that Austria will continue to develop its relations with Cuba and he asked Rodriguez to give his greetings to our commander in chief, Fidel Castro.

FLAVIO BRAVO VISITS MEXICO, CONDEMNS U.S. LIES

FL151153 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0908 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Flavio Bravo, vice president of the Council of Ministers, has affirmed in the Mexican capital that all our people are prepared to face and defeat any U.S. aggression that would attempt against the peace and sovereignty of the island. He also categorically denied that our country had sent arms and military advisors to Central America.

Flavio Bravo, who is visiting Mexico at the special invitation of that country's president -- Jose Lopez Portillo -- stressed that that lie has been denounced by our leaders on many occasions and yet some continue to fabricate and copy it in Yankee style. Finally, he assured that Cuba loves peace and wants to work and build an increasingly better soceity for which we will fight to achieve or die.

OFFICIAL SIGNS TOURISM AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO

FL151138 Havana Voice of Cuba in English to North America and the Caribbean 0500 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] A representative of Cuba's National Institute of Tourism and Mexico's Mejicana de Aviacion Airlines have signed an agreement to increase bilateral tourism. It calls for increase in tourism and the number of flights of both countries' airlines. Cubatour and Mejicana travel agencies will be promoting travel packages within the reach of workers, peasants, teachers and professionals.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTER LEAVES FOR ALGERIA

FL111230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, Poliburo member and transport minister, has left for Algeria, answering an invitation extended by Saleh Goudjil, Algerian transport and fisheries minister and member of the Central Committee of the National Algerian Liberation Front Party. The visit is being made within the framework of the links of mutual friendship and cooperation that are the basis of the relations between the two countries. Alfredo Suarez, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the transport union; and Bachir Ould-Rouis, Algerian ambassador to Cuba, were at the airport to see Garcia and his delegation off.

Received by Prime Minister

FL141607 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1210 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Mohamed Abdelghani, member of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party Politburo and prime minister of Algeria, had a meeting with Guillermo Garcia, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and minister of transportation.

According to the report, the meeting took place in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere and was attended by Saleh Goudjil, minister of transportation and fishing, and Cuban Ambassador Raul Barzaga. Abdelghani and Guillermo Garcia discussed the situation in Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa and other areas of the world. The state of the economy of both countries was discussed as well as the bilateral development of economic exchange. The Cuban official visited the maritime higher institute installations in (low Ismail), some 40 km from Algiers and which has a capacity for 400 students.

VENEZUELAN PARTY MEMBERS MEET WITH MONTANE

FL111810 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo and a member of the Secretariat, has met at the headquarters of that political organization with Dr (Eduardo Gallegos Mancera) and deputy (Alonso Ojeda Olaechea), who are members of the Politburo of the Venezuelan Communist Party. The two members of the Venezuelan Communist Party are visiting our country at the invitation of the Central Committee of Cuba's Communist Party.

During the fraternal meeting, the two delegations reviewed with satisfaction the development of the relations between the two parties. The visiting delegation reiterated its solidarity with the Cuban revolution in view of threat of aggression by Yankee imperialism.

AMBASSADOR PEREZ NOVOA RECEIVED BY INDIA'S GANDHI

FL121351 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] Cuban Ambassador to India Jose Perez Novoa was received in special audience by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. According to an official announcement, India's premier and the Cuban ambassador discussed matters of interest for the two governments and countries.

Official sources reported that Perez Novoa also held talks with External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao. The meetings of the Cuban diplomat with Gandhi and Rao, according to the reports, were held in a climate of cordiality, representative of the friendship and cooperation existing between the peoples and Governments of Cuba and India.

RETAIL PRICES, RATES INCREASED 14 DECEMBER

FL141600 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1207 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] New prices and rates will come in force today for the products and services that the population purchases within the commercial sector. In today's issue, the newspaper GRANMA, the official mouthpiece of the central Communist Party, publishes, on pages 2 and 3, an extensive report on the changes in retail prices and on inappropriate gratuities.

As of today, the retail prices of some food and industrial products have been increased. There have also been price increases in the hotel and restaurant sectors. Postal rates have also been increased. Prices charged at the dining rooms for workers have not been included in the retail price reforms, nor those pertaining to the optional consumer system and to the traditional system. In view of the price reforms, compensation will be granted to those who are benefited by social security and social assistance.

Regarding the basic products that greatly influence the family economy and that are sold at the more popular establishments, where the greater part of our population shops -- especially the people in the lower income brackets -- an effort has been made to keep the increases as low as possible. During the current 5-year period, the population will receive 4 billion pesos in additional income.

HAVANA CITY CTC ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 1982

FL120152 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] At the Lazaro Pena Auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] building, the second conference for the election and/or reelection of CTC officers in the province of Havana City concluded today.

Noel Zubiaur Mir, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, was elected secretary general of the Havana City CTC. Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the party's Politburo, made the closing remarks.

[Begin Camacho recording] The main report as well as the summary read by Comrade Noel Zubiaur critically and justly enumerate the more important aspects of the accomplishments of the CTC and its unions during this period of time and, undoubtedly, reflect a positive result. This conference has left with us the certainty that our union movement is advancing and is developing in accordance with the needs of our times; that its leaders and rank and file cadres are fully aware of the role they play in struggle for building and defending the first socialist revolution on this continent; and that their ideas, readiness to struggle and political and ideological convictions truly represent the feelings of our workers and our people. [end recording]

HERRERO ADDRESSES CULTURAL WORKERS CONGRESS

FL160046 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] The Second National Congress of the National Cultural Workers Trade Union has concluded at the Lazaro Pena theater of the Central Organizations of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] building in Havana City. The congress held 2 days of working sessions with the participation of more than 500 delegates and guests.

The closing ceremony was chaired by Armando Hart Davalos, minister of culture and member of Cuba's Communist Party [PCC] Politburo. Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, made the closing remarks. He said that since the holding of the first congress 4 years ago, excellent results can be appreciated both in the fulfillment of tasks and in membership growth. He referred to Lazaro Pena, the teacher of the working class, whom, he said, had given sound advice to the cultural workers at all times.

Perez Herrero noted that the evaluation undertaken by the cultural sector has been a positive step forward of coordinated action by the union and state bodies. Likewise, he referred to the general wage reform and to the need for the cultural workers to improve their professional and technical qualifications in a systematic manner.

Perez Herrero pointed out that the cultural workers are a reliable detachment of the combatant people and are marching at our people's revolutionary vanguard. In closing, he said: Let us get our inspiration in the working people. Let us share their creative efforts. Let us live in accordance with the times. Let us reflect them as they are. Let us imagine them as they should be. That is the only way to serve them and be worthy of their applause.

Prior to the speech by Perez Herrero, Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and secretary general of the CTC, announced the members of the new natinal committee of the Cultural Workers Union, whose secretariat is headed by Jacinto Viamontes as secretary general. Immediately following, Viamontes read the final resolution of the congress, which was unanimously approved by the delegates. Recognition certificates were presented to workers with more than 30 years of service in the sector as well as flags to the provinces which won the second Cultural Workers Union congress eumulation. Performing at the closing session were theater actress Mercedes (Arnaiz), the national chorus and Osvaldo Rodiguez who sang the march of the combatant people.